extensive scale and have embarked on a scheme costing over rupees one and a half lakhs for the construction of about 800 houses in the current year for their occupation. Steps are being taken to organise on a co-operative basis the cottage industries on which the families of these communities are generally engaged. My Government are giving free education to the students of backward communities and have adopted a liberal policy in the matter of granting other educational concessions to them. It has been decided to appoint suitable candidates from these communities to higher posts to secure adequate representation in the higher ranks of the Govarnment service and to exclude them from retrenchment measures.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

8. My Government are fully alive to the necessity for the protection of the health of the people, for the prevention of the occurrence of epidemics, and for the provision of medical relief by encouraging both modern and indigenous systems. They have arranged for the provision of midwifery service on a much larger scale, and have revived the scheme for free distribution of milk. They propose to start a first class T. B. clinic at Trivandrum with the assistance of the World Health Organisation and the Government of India and will open shortly the T. B. Sanatorium at Mulakunnathukavu and the T. B. Clinic at Palluruthy. They have appointed a Committee for the formulation of a scheme for the establishment of dispensaries in the State and have sanctioned the formation of Boards of Honorary Visitors to Hospital in certain important places in order to give an opportunity to the public to come in contact with the administration of medical institutions and to make suggestions for their improvement. The University of Travancore-Cochin has instituted a Faculty of Ayurveda.

HOUSING OF THE POOR

9. Realising the importance of the problem of housing for the poor, my Government are anxious to provide houses particularly for the rural agricultural labourers, fishermen in coastal areas, municipal menials and industrial labourers. They have constituted a Housing Board to deal with the problem on a systematic basis. The responsibility for working out the scheme will be entrusted to Co-operative Societies, wherever possible, particularly in the case of housing for agricultural labourers and fishermen. A scheme for re-building huts in the flood affected areas in the Pulinkunnu Pakuthy has been sanctioned as an experimental measure and after assessing its success there, it will be extended to other needy areas.

EDUCATION

10. In the field of education also, my Government are evincing keen interest. The College for Women, the C. M. S. College at Kottayam and the Scott Christian College, Nagercoil, have been raised to First Grade Colleges, and two new Colleges have been opened one at Pandalam and the other at Palai, while the number of seats in the Engineering College for the Degree Course has been raised from 50 to 100. My Government have decided that the Adult Education activities which are at present carried on by various organisations, should be brought under the direct supervision and control of a single authority and have accordingly appointed the Director of Public Instruction as the Adult Education Authority for the whole State. They have also constituted an Adult Education Board for implementation of the Adult Education Scheme. They have taken an important step towards the introduction of Basic Education by opening a Basic Training School at Cherpu and are collecting preliminary data for extending the scheme of compulsory primary education to Shencottah and Chittur Taluks. The sad lot of teachers in many private Secondary Schools

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has come to the notice of my Government and certain important steps have been taken to improve their lot.

INDUSTRIES

11. The policy of my Government has always been to encourage the industrialisation of the State. They have constituted a Planning Board to evolve suitable plans in this regard in collaboration with the Planning Commission of the Government of India, and also a Cottage Industries Committee to advise on the ways and means of developing cottage industries. In collaboration with the Government of India, proposals have been finalised for the establishment of a factory at Alwaye for processing monazite. My Government have agreed to render financial assistance for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of House Service meters and for the establishment of a caustic soda plant at Alwaye as a feeder to the Monazite factory.

CO-OPERATION

12. In our State the coir industry is the main source of livelihood to a substantial portion of the coastal population. To eliminate middle men and to assure the labourers employed in this industry a living wage, my Government have sponsored a scheme for the centralisation of the industry and for its administration through twenty-three units each under the control of a Co-operative Society. With a view to providing pure milk to the urban population, a Co-operative Milk Supply Scheme has been launched. The Co-operative College, run by the Travancore Co-operative Institute, has started a course of study on commercial subjects under the Government of India Technical Institutes' Scheme.

FISHERIES

13. My Government are aware of the difficulties which the fisherfolk are experiencing in getting timber for boats and catamarans, yarn for nets, and salt for curing purposes, and are taking adequate steps to remove these difficulties. They have constituted a Committee for the formulation of schemes for development of the fishing industry in the State. As part of the Grow More Food Campaign, they propose to take up a number of schemes such as Estuarine Fish Culture and maintenance of seed farm at Ayiramthengu for supply of Fry and Fingerlings to private owners; expansion of the stocking ponds at Ayiramthengu; paddy-cum-fish culture at the Kayamkulam lake; deep-sea fishing with power vessel; model fish curing yard for the efficient and hygienic curing and distribution of fish; fish stocking of the Hydro-Electric Reservoir in the High Ranges with Mirror carps from the Nilgris; improvement of Narakkal fish farm and starting of a new farm at Poyyayil; and construction of an ice plant for the preservation and transport of fish.

ELECTRICITY

14. The extension of electric lines into the various parts of the State and the Capital schemes for raising more hydro-electric power are going on according to programme. As a step towards the popularisation of the use of electricity, my Government have sanctioned a scheme of "assisted electric supply" under which the consumer may have a minimum of lights in his house and pay the capital cost in five years. The scheme also provides for the Government themselves meeting the service connection charges and for the collection of rental from the consumer for the service line.

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